

THE CARRIER

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MDARC



Seasons Greetings
and
See you after Y2K

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Magic of the Board

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

November was election month and I would like to thank the existing board for a great year. Ongoing members, Robert Hampton, KF6FGH, Keith Lattin, N6PMF and Cal Groom, KE6OEH will be still be involved with MDARC as good people are hard to find. New members, Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, Sam Lipson, KO6JR, Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT and Mike Patterson, KE6JGA will be adding their talents to the board.

The new board consists of:

President

Greg Estep, KE6VTA

Vice President

Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE

Secretary

Paul Dickey, N6JOX

Treasurer

Marie Lewis, KF6GLV

Emergency Coordinator

Sam Lipson, KO6JR

Directors at large

Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT (2 year)

Mike Patterson, KE6JGA (2 year)

John Stuart, KM6QX (1 year)

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD (1 year)

MDARC board meetings are the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at Emil Villa's Restaurant on Willow Pass Road in Concord. Meetings are open and you are invited to come and share

and or listen. We value your input to the process. The new board will face many challenges this year as it truly is a transition year. We are examining the expansion of the system and the challenge of balancing our needs versus available resources. We are looking for new people to help out constantly.

73, Greg

From the Other Side

One of our visitors to PACIFICON came from down under. We corresponded before and after the convention by E-mail. He sent me a copy of an article he wrote about his visit for his local amateur radio club. With his permission I have reprinted those portions of the article discussing his reaction to PACIFICON. It is nice to have opinions of people not living in or near the Bay Area to our convention. – Dick, KT6X

US CONFERENCE REPORT PACIFICON in California and Microwave Update in Texas October 1999

A combination of Y2K freeze, Air Miles and redundancy gave the time and money to travel cheaply to the US to check out conferences rather than the Hamfest swap meet type get-togethers that the author had been to in the past. At the Down East Microwave stall in Orlando, Microwave Update had been described as the place to be for the higher bands. Early disappointment with Air Miles meant that I knew I had to book 5-6 months out to get the dates I wanted. This early in the piece, the organizers don't have accommodation and other information together to help. At least I knew the dates and city. One can receive solace from "www.travelnow.com" and similar sites to see what you are in for. "www.arrl.org" can be used to see what else to do to while in the US. This is where the idea for PACIFICON came into the picture. Look for any 3 day event either side of your target.

PACIFICON takes place in Concord, CA, some way inland from San Francisco in the "Bay Area". It is about 40 minute drive on roads shown on the rental car company free map, ie Motorways. You can get there by remembering a few numbers and reading the signs. What you don't know is where your accommodation will be in relation to motorway exits, so be prepared to buy a map early on in the piece. It is hosted by the Mt Diablo Amateur Radio Club MDARC. You will see that MDARC occurs frequently in the www.arrl.org list.

PACIFICON had a whole day devoted to antennas before the parallel streams began Saturday and Sunday. The topics covered were Fractal Antennas (also covered recently in Communications Quarterly), Baluns for HF, Future Antennas (built in to the equipment), A primer on HF/VHF Antenna modeling, Tom Schiller of Force 12 Antennas, Dean Straw on planning for the 6Y2A DX contest expedition and a forum for questions. This was not so relevant for VHF and above but a gold mine for HF contesting. Dean Straw is the editor of the 16th and 17th editions of the ARRL Antenna Handbook. There was a discussion of NEC derivatives and their application over real ground. Combine this with propagation predictors of arrival angles from exotic locations, and analysis of results gathered for a period of years (now available on CDROM) and you become aware that verticals are just the thing. Next add elevated radials (to about 7-9 feet) and salt water. The radiation angle is all you could ask for. Your single vertical is starting to out perform full size yagis at heights that become aircraft hazards. Now take 2 or 4 of these and drive them in the correct phase.... After the design by Dean Straw, Tom Schiller built these designs for all bands 160-15m so that they could be carried inside golf bags with no piece longer than 4 foot so as to pass customs easily. Rich tourists going to golf resorts are welcome! This was all set up over about 800m of shore line. I forgot to ask what the tidal range is in Jamaica.

It would take a mathematician to invent the steps in miniaturizing an antenna which include "Opti-

mize Maxwell's equations", but this is included when removing a cell phone or wireless LAN antenna. It only succeeds because the existing whips are not very effective anyway. It was a fascinating insight into a leading edge technology when the problems of materials and miniaturization have to be solved. Just wait for someone to tell a council that your FT1000 must have the 20m antenna built in to beautify the skyline.

The pleasant surprise of PACIFICON was the QRP stream. This event is the largest in the US after Dayton for QRP. The adherents have infectious enthusiasm for their hobby. It started with building 2 transistor crystal VXO transmitters (Tuna Tin 2), followed by an Operating Event where these 0.3 w rigs limited to a 47 ohm resistor and 2m of wire antenna had to contact a fox at the front of the room under similar limitations. The receivers were MRX-40 VXO tuned which may have inspired the ALIVO. A small volume of papers published by the Norcal club had all the designs and speakers text. The simple designs have a large teaching element in them as well. The impression is that QRP has given these people projects of the same degree of complexity as 50 years ago when one had to build equipment. The components have changed but the resulting satisfaction is the same. A new construction style referred to as "Manhattan" is being promoted where chads of circuit board from a hole punch or nibbling tool are glued to plain circuit board to provide lands for component connection. Screen printed boards were available. Norcal is promoting construction by selling cheaply kits of toroid cores which may be hard to find from other sources. There are several kits for high performance transceivers from US\$250-550+ with the Elecraft K2 getting great reviews (unless life is too short for QRP as the T shirt says). More QRP information can be had from the US reflector by sending a message to "listserv@lehigh.edu" with a content of "qrp-l". The UK reflector moderator can be contacted at "g4wif@btinternet.com" to add you to their list.

There was a booth promoting APRS, license test-

ing on site, a commercial vendor area, a limited swap meet (with very little VHF+), VHF contesting, ARES (the AREC equivalent), JOTA, various other topics and 2200 registrations. Conscience dictated that I attend "The Mystery of the Smith Chart", given by a Chief Technologist from TRW in case some of the fog was penetrated. All the locals were intrigued that I should have come so far to their event, and I was made to feel welcome. There was little UHF+ activity or trading at PACIFICON.

Peter Loveridge
ZL1UKG

VE Exam Sessions

The MDARC sponsored Ham test sessions before club meetings are a very important part of our club's service to the community. This has been made especially so by the fact that the CCRA test sessions have been cancelled due to the lack of the Fire College site being reliably available on a bimonthly basis. Please contact Jim, N6BHX or Jean, N6LGE if you can help with testing.

Jeff Straus, KE6J

MDARC Board of Directors Minutes, Nov. 1, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:30 p.m. at Emil Villa's Restaurant, Concord. Other officers and directors present: Vice-President Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, Sect'y Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer Marie Lewis, KF6GLV, and Directors Keith Lattin, N6PMF, John Stuart, KM6QX, and Ed Ritchie, K6SFD. Committee Chairmen present: RRRG—Jim Brunk, N6BHX; Social—Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT and George Roush, WB6OFH; Pacificon—Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE. Others present: RRRG—Howard Burk, KE6PTT and Jay Caldis, KT6Y. Also present were Dick Schulze, AA6DL, and Aaron Matzkin, KE6ZZS.

Tracey, KE6TOT, reminded the Board of the

Christmas dinner at the Hungry Hunter on Willow Pass Road in Concord, Dec. 7. She noted that there was no podium nor PA system at the HH. The Board approved an expenditure of \$700 for decorations, prizes, and awards to be given at the dinner.

Jim, N6BHX noted that the 2.4 gig input was in the works. He also announced that the EB SEC has 7 mobile/portable repeaters for use in emergencies.

Terry, KE6WRE, who was approved as next year's overall chairman for Pacificon, stated that many of next year's committee chairmen were already approved, however, the Steering Committee for Pacificon needed a firm date and location. Riley Hollingsworth has been confirmed as the banquet speaker. The tentative results from this year's Pacificon show an exhibitors' profit of over \$5,000, which is more than last year. He recommended that a separate committee be set up for the caterer operation. He noted that activity would probably net somewhere around \$500, and that overall the convention profit would exceed \$10,000. There are still some dollars outstanding from ticket sales, etc.

Mike, KE6JGA, noted that the next general meeting would feature Jacques Maque with Polyphaser as speaker.

Marie, KF6GLV, introduced a tentative next year's budget for discussion. After extensive remarks, John, KM6QX, moved that the club dues remain the same for next year. The motion was approved. The Board agreed that the tentative document should be revised and brought back to the next Board meeting.

Jim, N6BHX, agreed to oversee the VE testing on a temporary basis. He noted that the club needed some Extras to step up to jobs as VEs.

Greg adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

MDARC General Meeting Minutes, Nov. 19, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:30 p.m. Visiting for the evening was Paul, KE6EAX.

Greg announced that this was the last chance to vote. The ballots were to be tallied at 8:00 p.m. Continuing Directors (and not up for election) were Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, and John Stuart, KM6QX.

Marie, KF6GLV, provided the Treasurer's report.

Mike, KE6JGA, noted that his e-mail comments about the RACES connector were for info only, and did not mean that a change was imminent. He also announced that the voting for Vice-Director had resulted in Bob Vallio being elected.

John Ronan, K3ZJJ, announced that he was interested in having a slow-scan net on Wednesday nights on 441.325. He and Sam, KO6JR, demonstrated a local slow scan transmission.

Tracey, KE6TOT, reminded everyone that the holiday party would be no host @ 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Hungry Hunter on Willow Pass.

Sam, KO6JR, announced that KC6DAQ, marine mobile near Baja, was looking for a HF op for phone patch about 7:30 a.m. or on the Tabasco net for traffic.

Sam also announced a total membership of 406.

Terry, KE 6WRE, was recognized as Pacificon Chairman for next year.

Jim, N6BHX, noted that the VEs tested two candidates resulting in one new ham. He also acknowledged some degradation in the APRS node at West County, and noted that it is being repaired. It was sent back to the manufacturer for repair. The members approved a reclassification of \$900 from the contingency line to fund a new power supply.

Lauren, WA6CIE, announced that there was a new baby in the life of Ruth, KE6VOO, named Samantha Lee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. for further activities.

John, KF6MNL, presided over the drawing.

Jaque (Mac) Maque, K6YS, with Polyphaser, was the speaker for the evening.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

Announcement from the ARRL:

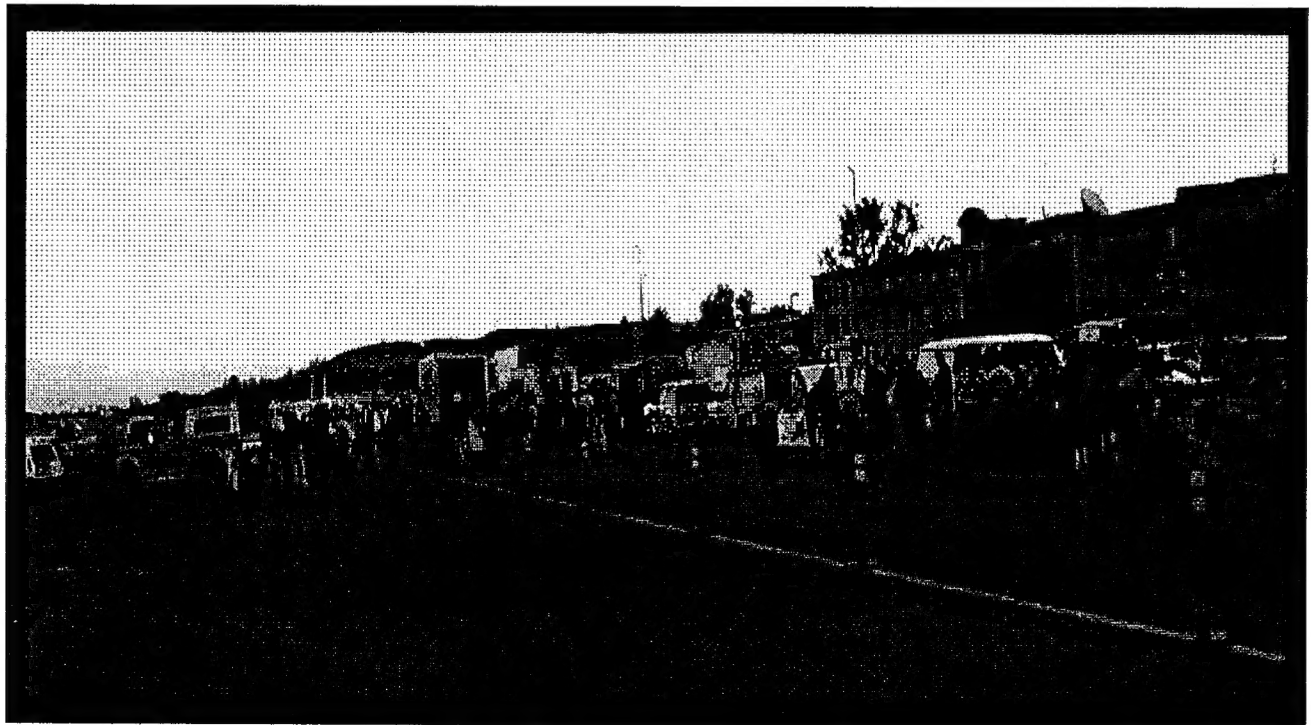
Subject:ARLB090 Section Managers Elected

Ballots were counted November 23 at ARRL Headquarters to determine the results of contested Section Manager races in Alaska, East Bay, and Tennessee.

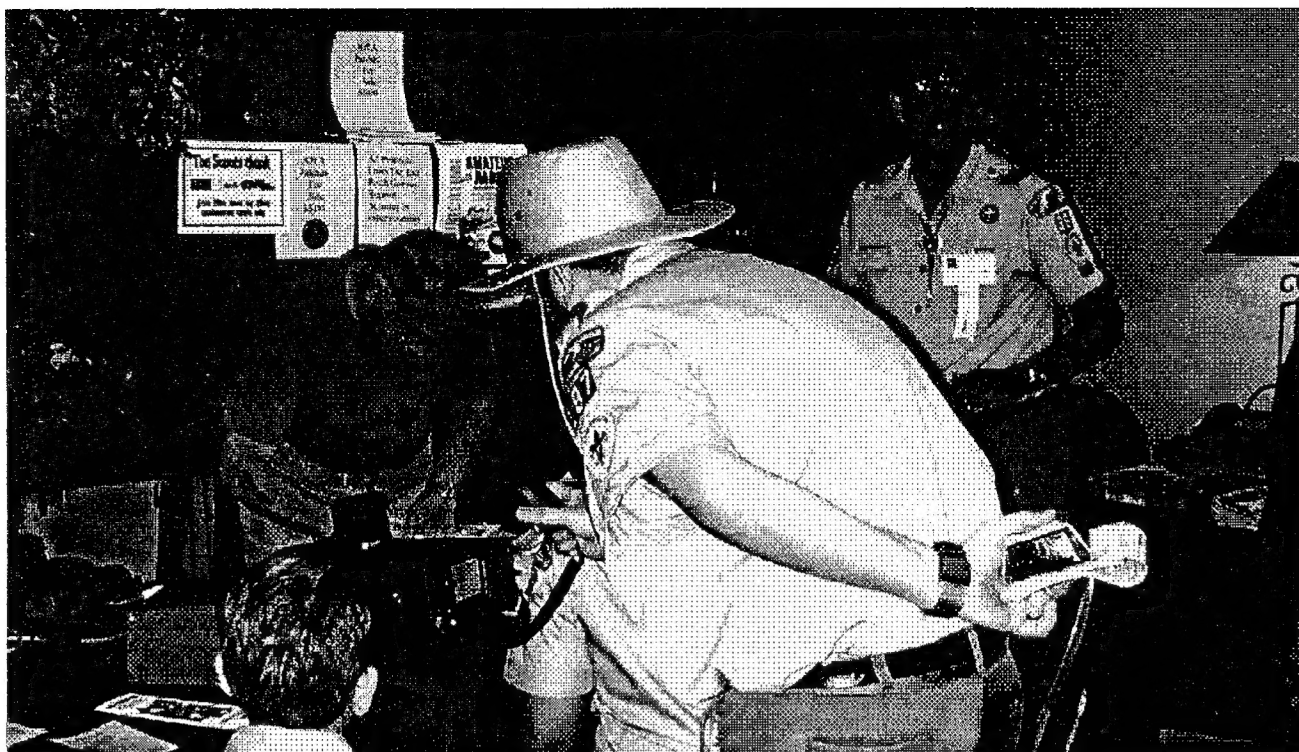
In East Bay, incumbent SM Bob Vallio, W6RGG - who was elected Pacific Division Vice Director on November 19 - defeated Don Smith, W6NKF, 337 to 245. Vallio may not hold both offices, however. Once he has chosen, the other office will be filled by appointment.

Terms of office for all candidates begin January 1, 2000. Contact information for all ARRL Section Managers is on page 12 of any issue of QST.

Mike
KE6JGA



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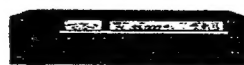
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Membership Update:

Please welcome our new members and not changes in current members information. Forward all changes to KO6JR at ko6jr@arri.net or at meetings or to the club PO box. 73, Sam

Name, Call, License Class; Spouse Name & Call

*** = Rocky Ridge Supporter**

Address, Phone numbers, e-mail

What If Dr. Seuss Wrote Technical Manuals?

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk
abort, Then the socket packet pocket has an error to
report!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
And the double clicking icons put your window in the trash,
And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,
Then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on your cable on the gable at your house,
Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,
But your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,
So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,
Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,
'Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk,
And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary RISC,
then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM,
Quickly turn off your computer and be sure to tell your mom!

Author unknown

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

No MDARC general meeting in December.

1/3	7:30 PM	MDARC Board meeting	Emil Villa's in Concord
1/21	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	
2/7	7:30 PM	MDARC Board meeting	Emil Villa's in Concord
2/18	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	

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